

REMARKS

Currently, claims 1-69 are pending. Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 9-13 are allowable. Applicants also appreciate the indication that claim 14 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the claim objections set forth in the Office Action. Applicants have amended claim 14 to overcome this objection and respectfully submit that claim 14 is in condition for allowance.

In order to expedite prosecution and without acquiescing in the rejections of claims 1-8 and 15-69, Applicants have cancelled claims 1-8 and 15-69 without prejudice to pursuing these claims in one or more continuing applications.

The concerns of the Examiner addressed in full, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of all outstanding objections and rejections, and the issuance of a Notice of Allowance forthwith. Applicants encourage the Examiner to direct any questions to the undersigned, who may be contacted at (919) 483-9024.

Respectfully submitted,

//J. Michael Strickland //

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